

Ashamed to Be Seen Now

Hamberger Describes Shock Over Bugging

By Jean M. White

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LACONIA, N.H., Jan. 26—A young husband told a jury today how he felt after he came to think his bedroom walls did have ears.

"I didn't want to go out. I didn't want to be seen. . . Try putting yourself in my shoes—This rig being operated for a whole year under my bedroom."

Carl H. Hamberger, 36-year-old auto parts salesman, was on the stand testifying about his reactions after he discovered a speaker near the hot-air register in the bedroom that he shared with his wife, Mae.

The Hambergers are seeking \$125,000 in damages from their

former landlord, Clifford C. Eastman, of nearby Gilford, in an invasion-of-privacy suit.

The thought of such undercover spying Hamberger testified today, led to "extreme nervousness" that cost him several jobs and such mental anguish that his wife had to seek psychiatric help.

When he first discovered the speaker, Hamberger said, his wife warned him not to touch it or he might get "a shock."

But the real shock came later when he realized the capabilities of electronic eavesdropping, his testimony indicated.

The father of four children

See BUG, A3, Col. 3



Associated Press

CONFERENCE — Carl Hamberger, left, and his wife, Mae, confer with their attorney, Peter Makris, and electronics expert Richard Shea during a lull in the trial.

BUG—From A1

Hamberger Cites Shock Of Bugging

testified that he and his wife were too embarrassed to go out after the speaker was discovered in their cellar in October 1962. The thought that someone had bugged their bedroom made them think "it was all over the neighborhood" and suspect what people were talking about when they walked down the streets.

The German-born Hamberger summed up his feelings this way: "When you go with your wife to bed, I think it's your personal affair and . . . no one has the right to listen to it."

Defense Contention

The defense has indicated that it will contend that the speaker was placed in the cellar so Eastman, a poultry farmer, could check on operation of a water pump. The pump, located in the basement of the house, rented by the Hambergers, supplies the water for the 11,000 chickens on Eastman's Sunny Slope Poultry Farm.

In the closing minutes of today's hearing, Defense Attorney Hugh H. Bownes ripped into Hamberger's testimony on the discovery of the speaker. The sharp exchange ended as Bownes tossed the speaker at Hamberger, who caught it with a quick reflex.

Just as quickly Mae Hamberger, a slight blonde, jumped up in her husband's defense.

Earlier, Hamberger had described how he happened to find the speaker as he was questioned by his attorney, Peter Makris.

On Oct. 8, 1962, he said, he

came home after midnight from his part-time job as a special officer with the Gilford police force. His wife complained about strange noises coming from the hot-air register near their bed.

Hamberger said he was tired and told his wife that he would check in the morning, thinking it could be a dog or a mouse or that she might have been dreaming.

The next afternoon, after returning from his regular job as auto parts salesman, he went to the cellar to feed the dog. His wife reminded him to check on the noise in the furnace because they were "getting very little heat in the bedroom."

Wires Traced to House

Hamberger said he found a hot-air pipe in the bedroom register was loose. When he couldn't connect it, he testified, he pulled out a section of the pipe and found "this little gadget sitting in the corner." The speaker, he said, was slanted upwards "into the register."

Then, he said, he called a fellow police officer and they traced the wires through the cellar, then underground to a chicken coop, up a utility pole, and from there to the Eastman home some 700 to 800 feet away.